

1 We claim:

- 2 1. A method for establishing and retrieving data based on global indices comprising:
3 establishing a unique device ID for each of a plurality of data generating devices on a
4 network;
5 registering the unique device ID of each of the plurality of data generating devices on the
6 network on at least one server connected to the network when the data generating equipment is
7 first used on the network;
8 establishing a unique user ID for each user of the data generating devices when the user
9 uses one of the plurality of data generating devices for the first time; and
10 retrieving data generated by the plurality of data generating devices by searching for
11 instances of the unique user ID.
- 12 2. The method for establishing and retrieving data based on global indices of claim 1
13 wherein establishing the unique user ID further comprises combining the device ID of the
14 data generating device being used by the user with a date/time stamp of the first use by
15 the user.
- 16 3. The method for establishing and retrieving data based on global indices of claim 2 further
17 comprising storing the unique user ID on a token given to the user.
- 18 4. The method for establishing and retrieving data based on global indices of claim 3 further
19 comprising the user using the token with the unique user ID for all subsequent uses of
20 any of the plurality of data generating devices.
- 21 5. The method for establishing and retrieving data based on global indices of claim 1
22 wherein the data generated is medical data concerning the user.

- 1 6. The method for establishing and retrieving data based on global indices of claim 1
2 wherein the data generated is commercial data.
- 3 7. A system for establishing and retrieving data based on global indices comprising:
4 a network;
5 a plurality of servers connected to the network for storing data and responding to search
6 requests;
7 a plurality of data generating devices connected to the servers, wherein each data
8 generating device has a unique ID that is registered with at least one server when the data
9 generating device is first used of the network;
10 unique user ID generator associated with each data generating device whereby a unique
11 user ID is established by combining the unique device ID with a date time stamp of when the
12 user first used any of the plurality of data generating devices on the network; and
13 search logic for searching for instances of the unique user ID on any of the plurality of
14 servers.
- 15 8. The system for establishing and retrieving data based on global indices of claim 7
16 wherein the data generating devices are medical data generating devices.
- 17 9. The system for establishing and retrieving data based on global indices of claim 7 further
18 comprising tokens generated by each of the plurality of data generating devices on which
19 is stored each unique user ID.
- 20 10. The system for establishing and retrieving data based on global indices of claim 7
21 wherein the data generated is commercial data.
- 22 11. The system for establishing and retrieving data based on global indices of claim 9

1 wherein each of the plurality of data generating devices further comprises a token reader
2 for reading the unique user ID stored on the token of a user.

3 12. The system for establishing and retrieving data based on global indices of claim 7 further
4 comprising data transport logic for transporting data generated from one data generating
5 device to another once the location of the data has been determined by the search logic
6 identifying instances of the unique user ID on any of the plurality of servers.

7 13. A method for establishing and retrieving data based on global indices comprising:
8 establishing a unique device ID for each of a plurality of data generating devices on a
9 network;
10 registering the unique device ID of each of the plurality of data generating devices on the
11 network on at least one server connected to the network when the data generating equipment is
12 first used on the network;
13 establishing a unique record ID for each record of the data generating devices when the
14 record is created using one of the plurality of data generating devices for the first time; and
15 retrieving data generated by the plurality of data generating devices by searching for
16 instances of the unique record ID.

17 14. The method for establishing and retrieving data based on global indices of claim 13
18 wherein the records creating is creating records of parts of an assembly.